CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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FINAL RECORD OF THE FOUR HUNDRED AND NINETY-THIRD PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Thursday, 9 March 1989, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. Chusei Yamada (Japan)

GE.89-60402/0368B

The PRESIDENT: I declare open the 493rd plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament.

In accordance with its programme of work, the Conference will continue today its consideration of agenda item 5, entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space". However, in accordance with rule 30 of its rules of procedure, any member wishing to do so may raise any subject relevant to the work of the Conference.

In connection with the agenda item under consideration today, I am happy to inform you that agreement has been reached at informal consultations on the mandate and the Chairman for the Ad hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space. Accordingly, I shall put before the Conference for adoption today a draft decision on the re-establishment of the Ad hoc Committee, the appointment of the Chairman and also draft decisions on requests from non-members to participate in the work of the Conference.

At the meeting of co-ordinators yesterday we agreed, for practical reasons, to dispense with the procedure of first holding an informal meeting to discuss these questions. Therefore, we shall take up these matters at this plenary meeting once the list of speakers has been exhausted.

I have on my list of speakers today the representative of Mongolia. You have the floor, Sir.

Mr. BAYART (Mongolia): Mr. President, I would like to say how pleased I am to see you in the Chair. I am confident that your calm candour and oriental wisdom, along with your great diplomatic skills, will enable you to steer successfully the work of the Conference on Disarmament for this month. I would like to thank Ambassador Pugliese of Italy, who as your predecessor in this high post has given a good start to our 1989 session. I also take this opportunity to extend my delegation's warm welcome to the new representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Burma, India, Belgium, the German Democratic Republic, Sweden, Australia, Kenya, Pakistan, Algeria and Czechoslovakia. I assure them the co-operation of the Mongolian delegation.

The 1989 session of the Conference on Disarmament is being held in an atmosphere of growing expectations that tangible and practical results will be achieved in its work. These hopes are generated by the significant positive changes that have occurred in the domain of international relations, as well as the important understandings that have been reached in the field of arms limitation and disarmament. The process set in motion for cutting nuclear arsenals is now being supplemented by negotiations between 23 States on the reduction of armed forces and armaments in Europe.

The Paris Conference on the prohibition of chemical weapons met the world's expectations and served as an important landmark in the struggle to rid our planet of chemical weapons. This being so, as we see it, the quest for disarmament is gaining qualitatively new parameters in all its basic directions. There is growing awareness and determination to renounce the

(Mr. Bayart, Mongolia)

principle of over-arming and to turn to the principle of defensive sufficiency. Not only are old stereotypes being overcome and certain values reassessed, but a new realistic approach to greater confidence and security is taking shape.

Mongolia welcomes the continued successful implementation of the INF Treaty, and expects that the Soviet-American talks on nuclear and space weapons will resume soon so as to bring about the declared objective of a 50 per cent reduction in their strategic offensive arms, while preserving the ABM Treaty as signed in 1972.

In our opinion, the relaxation of military confrontation in Europe would have a most favourable impact on strengthening stability and security not only on this continent but throughout the world. The decision of the Soviet Union unilaterally to reduce its armed forces and armaments in Europe and Asia, as declared by General Secretary Gorbachev at the United Nations General Assembly session last December, as well as the corresponding decisions taken by the other Warsaw Treaty member States, have made a valuable practical contribution to the whole process of disarmament, and enhanced confidence among nations, and they clearly demonstrate the determination of these States to see a breakthrough in the field of conventional disarmament as well.

As was announced earlier by the leaders of my country and the USSR, most of the Soviet troops temporarily stationed on the territory of the Mongolian People's Republic will return home during 1989-1990. I am happy to inform the Conference on Disarmament that my Government recently decided to reduce the numerical strength of our country's armed forces by 13,000 in 1989-1990, and to convert 1,000 transport vehicles and 90 tracked and armoured vehicles for use in the civilian economy. I have asked the secretariat to distribute the text of this decision as an official document of the CD, and the secretariat is now circulating it. It should be emphasized that my Government's decision is fully in line with the objective of furthering the development of the national economy and increasing financial and human resources to enhance the well-being of our people.

All these decisions have been prompted by our genuine desire to promote by deeds confidence and co-operation in relations among States, and also the positive developments taking place in the world as a whole, and in Asia in particular.

Like many others, we think that conditions for disarmament are now as favourable as they are ever likely to be. Therefore, it would be an unforgivable mistake if the Conference were not to take advantage of the day, and did not offer its worthy contribution to furthering the positive changes taking place the world over. Here, in our opinion, the current year, 1989, should be a crucial turning-point as we move towards completion of work on the chemical weapons convention.

As was rightly pointed out by His Excellency Mr. Genscher, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany, in his statement on 2 March 1989, given good will on the part of everyone concerned, the finalization of the convention ought to be possible by the end of this year.

(Mr. Bayart, Mongolia)

It is extremely important that the negotiations on chemical weapons should not lose momentum. During the negotiations, all efforts should be directed towards finding solutions to pending problems, rather than revising compromises achieved through a great amount of painstaking work.

The current state of affairs of the negotiations allows us to conclude that today there is no problem that cannot be resolved or that could long hamper the ongoing negotiations. Yes, there are problems, for the moment, which are mainly of a technical nature. Given the desire on everyone's part to search for common understanding, they could be agreed upon without much difficulty.

Speaking on the question of chemical weapons, I will limit my remarks mainly to its verification aspects. As for the other problems related to the chemical weapons negotiations, I will address them in a future statement. The Ad hoc Committee is now focusing attention, inter alia, on the question of verification, which occupies a prominent place among the outstanding problems. Hence, we welcome the creation of a working group to deal with the subject. The "rolling text" of our future convention contains the main mechanisms of verification which have been elaborated to varying degrees. Some of them have almost been completed, whereas others are being worked out.

Like many others, my delegation considers that whenever one raises the question of verification of the convention, one has to proceed from the premise that the security interests of States should prevail over commercial and other interests. Naturally, we could think about the specific interests of given companies and take them into consideration wherever possible. In the course of negotiations, a number of delegations have come up with valuable ideas and proposals on the question of verification, including the idea of making good use of relevant verification provisions contained in the INF Treaty and the document of the Stockholm Conference, as well as the day-to-day practice of the International Atomic Energy Agency wherever feasible. Though we understand that they cover different subjects, nothing will prevent us from studying the good experience gained there. This could be done, in our opinion, in Working Group 1 on verification.

There are other priority questions on the agenda of the Conference on Disarmament. Negotiations on the chemical weapons convention, while of central importance, should not be allowed to overshadow other agenda items. What I have in mind, first and foremost, is item 1, "Nuclear test ban", which has always been and remains a key topic because of what it would mean for stopping the nuclear arms race and for nuclear disarmament. Further inaction on the part of the Conference on this vital issue will find no justification whatsoever. A large number of proposals aimed at creating a subsidiary body which would seriously grapple with the problem of a nuclear test ban are currently on the table in the Conference. While not excluding other possibilities, we still see in document CD/863 a way out of the deadlock on the issue of a mandate. The Conference has definitely not exhausted all possible ways of establishing a working body. For example, in the search for a common approach, the "mandate question" might be discussed at the informal

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open-ended consultations under your guidance, Mr. President, in order to facilitate the creation of an ad hoc committee. My delegation pledges its full support and co-operation in your endeavour to overcome this stalemate.

At the same time, it is essential to pursue the work on the elaboration of a seismic verification system for the CTB. This system should be based on the international exchange of wave-form (level II) data. In our opinion, besides seismic verification of the non-conduct of nuclear explosions, on-site inspection and radiation safety monitoring, other measures of verification could possibly be applied in this field. We share the assessment you made in your statement of 28 February 1989, Mr. President, that "we may be coming to a point where we should start thinking seriously about the multiple facets of verification from a broader and more purpose-oriented perspective, and give proper guidance to the work of the GSE".

In this respect, we feel that there are good prospects for creating a group of scientific experts to be assigned the urgent task of preparing practical proposals on the system of verification of the non-conduct of nuclear explosions. Providing it did not duplicate the work of the Group of Seismic Experts, this mechanism could also be entrusted with the task of conducting an exchange of opinions on the place and role of seismic components in an overall verification system.

The prevention of an arms race in outer space is one of the priorities of disarmament negotiations. As was eloquently pointed out by His Excellency Mr. Andreotti, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Italy, "it is a sector of activity of enormous relevance to the peaceful future of mankind, and will require increased commitment on the part of us all". We have just heard the good news of the agreement on the re-establishment of the Ad hoc Committee on outer space.

During 1985-1988, in the Ad hoc Committee, representatives of the member States of the CD drew attention to a number of issues such as: the status of outer space as the common heritage of mankind; the need to prevent an arms race in outer space; the non-deployment of weapons in outer space; the interrelationship between the prevention of an arms race in outer space and arms limitation and disarmament measures in other fields; the relationship between bilateral and multilateral efforts aimed at the prevention of an arms race in outer space; the definition of space weapons; the improvement of the working procedures of the Ad hoc Committee; the necessity of strengthening the existing legal régime; and the problems related to verification and compliance.

Many delegations favoured a mandate for the Ad hoc Committee that would provide for negotiations, considering that the stage of identifying and examining the problems pertaining to the prevention of an arms race in outer space is over, and they stressed that it was indispensable to embark upon more substantial work. Almost all the members of the Conference on Disarmament have expressed their attitude vis-à-vis the idea of starting multilateral negotiations. Proposals of a comprehensive nature, and those partially covering certain aspects of the problem, have been tabled before the Ad hoc Committee.

(Mr. Bayart, Mongolia)

If we are not all prepared to enter negotiations on the substance of these proposals, we could first take up the partial or "supplementary" measures, including measures to strengthen confidence and openness in this field. Here the idea put forward by the Federal Republic of Germany for the devising of "rules of the road" in space merits our interest. The Argentine proposal that every member State of the Conference on Disarmament should declare that weapons have not been deployed in outer space on a permanent basis is very important, in our opinion.

Thus we can see that during its work in 1985-1988 the Ad hoc Committee has accumulated a great number of useful ideas and proposals. Most of them contain constructive elements which are acceptable to the majority and constitute a good basis for concrete and purposeful negotiations. What is more, ideas and suggestions for negotiations have been put forward by all countries, including those which are at present not prepared for the commencement of concrete negotiations.

These are a few remarks that my delegation has to offer at this stage of our work.

The PRESIDENT: I thank Ambassador Bayart for his statement and for the very kind words he addressed to me. I have no other speakers on my list for today. Before we proceed to the decision on agenda item 5, may I ask whether any other delegation wishes to take the floor? I recognize the representative of Egypt.

Mr. ELARABY (Egypt): I would like to make the following statement on behalf of the Group of 21 with respect to the Ad hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, but before doing so - and since this is the first time that I have taken the floor this month - I would like, on behalf of my delegation, to extend to you, Sir, our best wishes and to express our gratitude to Ambassador Pugliese.

The Group continues to underline the importance of the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes and the urgency of preventing an arms race from occurring in outer space.

The General Assembly on 7 December 1988 adopted resolution 43/70 on the prevention of an arms race in outer space with an overwhelming majority and only one dissenting vote. The resolution requested the Conference on Disarmament to consider as a matter of priority the question of preventing an arms race in outer space and to intensify its consideration of that question, in all its aspects, taking into account all relevant proposals and initiatives. The resolution further requested the Conference on Disarmament to "re-establish an ad hoc committee with an adequate mandate at the beginning of its 1989 session, with a view to undertaking negotiations for the conclusion of an agreement or agreements, as appropriate, to prevent an arms race in outer space in all its aspects".

(Mr. Elaraby, Egypt)

The Group of 21 remains fully committed to the provisions of this resolution. It considers its adoption as an endorsement of a desire to entrust the Ad hoc Committee with the task of improving the mandate in a manner commensurate with the responsibilities of the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral forum for disarmament negotiations.

Faced once again with a rigid position taken by the Western Group, and in particular by one delegation belonging to that group, the Group of 21 regrets that it was not found possible to improve the mandate in accordance with the above-mentioned General Assembly resolution, nor to reiterate the proceedings involving a statement by the President of the Conference as was done in previous years.

In view of the pressing need to address, without delay, the important question of the prevention of an arms race in outer space, which necessitates the prompt re-establishment of the Ad hoc Committee, the Group of 21 decided, once again, to demonstrate further good will and flexibility in agreeing to work on the basis of the mandate of the previous years. Nevertheless, the Group of 21 recalls that the mandate covers the consideration of proposals for measures aimed at the prevention of an arms race in outer space. The Group of 21 believes that the Ad hoc Committee should therefore start work immediately in order to achieve progress and attain positive results.

This is the statement that my delegation was charged with delivering on behalf of the Group of 21.

The PRESIDENT: I thank Ambassador Elaraby for his statement on behalf of the Group of 21, and for the very kind words he addressed to me. Does any other delegation wish to take the floor before we proceed to take a decision on the mandate?

I now intend to put before the Conference the draft mandate for the Ad hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space contained in working paper CD/WP.358. If there is no objection, I shall take it that the Conference adopts the draft decision.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: I should now like to propose the appointment of the Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee. I understand that there is consensus in the Conference on appointing Ambassador Luvsandorjiin Bayart of Mongolia as Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee. May I take it that there is agreement in the Conference?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Ambassador Bayart, on behalf of the Conference, I would like to extend to you our most sincere congratulations upon your appointment as Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, and our very best wishes for success. You were the Chairman of the same Committee in 1986, and I am convinced that under your able leadership the Committee will have fruitful consideration of agenda item 5.

(The President)

I shall now take up requests from non-members to participate in the work of the Ad hoc Committee. You will recall that the relevant draft decisions concerning agenda item 5 were circulated at the plenary meeting held on 16 February, and another circulation is being made today. At that plenary meeting, my predecessor noted that for technical reasons relating to the consultations being held then, the secretariat had prepared the working papers relating to invitations to non-members with reference to the subsidiary bodies on agenda items 4 and 5. Of course, the references to agenda item 4 should now be disregarded, as action has already been taken on them. We shall then only consider working paper CD/WP.359 and its addenda 1 to 19 with respect to agenda item 5. To facilitate the process of decision-making, I shall list those countries cited in that working paper as requesting participation under agenda item 5, "Prevention of an arms race in outer space": Norway, Spain, Finland, Switzerland, Austria, Ireland, New Zealand, Portugal, Denmark, Turkey, Senegal, Greece and Zimbabwe. We shall also take a decision on the request received from Chile, the relevant draft decision also having been circulated today as working paper CD/WP.362. As no objection has been raised to inviting the non-members concerned to participate in our work under agenda item 5, I suggest that we take up all the requests together. If there is no objection, I shall consider that the Conference adopts the draft decisions.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: I understand that the representative of Hungary requests the floor.

Mr. VARGA (Hungary): First of all, Mr. President, I would like to congratulate you on your accession to the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament for the month of March. I am confident that the Conference on Disarmament will make further progress on its priority agenda items as it has done under your able guidance up till now.

I have asked for the floor to make a short comment - on behalf of the Group of Socialist Countries - on the establishment of the Ad hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space. I would like to thank you - on behalf of our Group - for your untiring and eventually successful efforts to abolish the difficulties standing in the way of the establishment of the Ad hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space. The Group on behalf of which I am speaking has taken note of the flexible position of the Group of 21 - as we heard a couple of minutes ago - contributing thereby a great deal to solving the problem of the setting up of the Ad hoc Committee. I express our congratulations to Ambassador Bayart of Mongolia, Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee, and wish him success in his responsible task. We are sure that his experience will contribute to achieving further progress in this important field.

Resolution 43/70 of the General Assembly of the United Nations recommended that the Conference on Disarmament should activate the consideration of the issue of the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects, taking into consideration the relevant suggestions and initiatives. It also recommended the setting up of an ad hoc committee at

(Mr. Varga, Hungary)

its 1989 session with a view to starting negotiations on the conclusion of a convention or conventions on the issue. The Group of Socialist Countries is of the opinion that it is more timely than ever to make serious efforts for the prevention of an arms race in outer space, to speed up multilateral efforts in this respect - first of all those of the Conference on Disarmament.

We have just adopted a decision on the re-establishment of the Ad hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space and on its mandate. The agreement on the mandate, reached in spite of the well-known difficulties, as well as the start of the substantive work of the Committee, is a matter of satisfaction for us, although we are somewhat unhappy with the delay. The Group of Socialist Countries cannot help, however, expressing its disappointment over the fact that in recent years the Ad hoc Committee has been prevented from entering into real negotiating work on key issues on the prevention of an arms race in outer space. Nevertheless, we consider that the Ad hoc Committee will be in a position to accomplish purpose-oriented work through an appropriately structured discussion, conducted with a veiw to preparing the basis for future negotiations on the subject. Item 3 of its programme of work provides for that. We think that the main thrust of the work should be directed to substantive discussion and evaluation of the existing proposals and initiatives, concentrating on the convergence of views concerning particular issues. Substantive consideration could, in our view, be given to the working out of agreements aimed at the effective prevention of an arms race in outer space.

The ideas and initiatives put forward during recent years provide a reliable basis for fruitful work in the Ad hoc Committee. We do hope that those involved in the discussion will make good use of them.

The PRESIDENT: I thank Ambassador Varga for his statement on behalf of the Socialist Group, and for the very kind words he addressed to me. I recognize the representative of Canada.

Mr. MARCHAND (Canada): Speaking on behalf of my Group, I wish to express primarily pleasure but also disappointment at what I have heard this morning at the Group of 21's acceptance of consensus as was communicated to us in this Conference. First, pleasure, because obviously our Group, like all the others, welcomes the establishment of the Ad hoc Committee. Pleasure also because we note with satisfaction the comprehensive nature of the mandate that we have adopted today to define the work of the Committee, and the fact that that mandate allows all delegations to address the subjects they consider important and urgent. Pleasure finally, because I take pride in indicating the desire of the Western Group to contribute fully to the work of the Committee.

Disappointment also I have to register. We at the CD are dealing with the fundamental national security concerns of all countries represented here. We are not engaged in an academic exercise, but we are engaged with real work, of real importance. To single out a particular delegation and its position on important issues is not conducive to the proper advancement of our work.

(Mr. Marchand, Canada)

Having said this, Mr. President, I wish to thank you, and indeed your predecessor Ambassador Pugliese, for the active interest you have taken in the matter which this morning comes to its dénouement.

Finally, I wish to congratulate Ambassador Bayart, who has just received the confidence of this Conference, and I wish to assure him of my Group's full co-operation.

The PRESIDENT: I thank Ambassador Marchand for his statement on behalf of the Western Group. I now give the floor to Ambassador Fan of China.

Mr. FAN (China) (translated from Chinese): Mr. President, I am very pleased to see the presidency of the CD for the month of March in your hands. China and Japan are close neighbours, and at present are co-operating in many areas. China commits itself to the development of long-term stable neighbourly and friendly relations with Japan. You are a seasoned diplomat rich in experience, and you have a penetrating knowledge of disarmament matters. I am convinced that under your skilful guidance work at the CD will register new progress. During your term, the Chinese delegation is willing to enter into close co-operation with you. I would also like to avail myself of this opportunity to express my appreciation to your predecessor, Ambassador Pugliese, for his outstanding work during the month of February.

In my statement in February I pointed out that the prevention of an arms race in outer space should be a new priority in disarmament. China has all along insisted that the exploration and exploitation of outer space should serve peaceful purposes, and is opposed to an arms race in outer space. China supported resolution 43/70 on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, adopted by the General Assembly, at its forty-third session, and we favour the re-establishment of the Ad hoc Committee with an adequate mandate at the beginning of the 1989 session with a view to undertaking negotiations for the conclusion of an agreement or agreements, as appropriate, to prevent an arms race in outer space in all its aspects.

We are of the view that the mandate of the Ad hoc Committee should always adapt itself to changing circumstances. In the past three years, the statement made by the President of the CD at the time of the establishment of the Ad hoc Committee concerning its mandate has been useful. This year the effort made by the Group of 21 to improve upon the mandate and to reaffirm the statement of the President was justified. At the same time, the Chinese delegation has taken note of the fact that different parties still hold divergent views on this matter. We appreciate the good will and flexibility displayed by the Group of 21 to enable the Ad hoc Committee to be re-established and embark on its work as soon as possible.

In order to enable the Ad hoc Committee to enter into substantive work as soon as possible, the Chinese delegation will go along with the re-establishment of the Ad hoc Committee on the basis of the present mandate. I would also like to congratulate Ambassador Bayart warmly on assuming the chairmanship of this Committee. I am convinced that his able guidance will lead the Ad hoc Committee to positive progress.

The PRESIDENT: I thank Ambassador Fan for his statement and for the very kind words he addressed to me and to my country. Does any other delegation wish to take the floor at this moment? I recognize the representative of the United States of America.

Mr. FRIEDERSDORF (United States of America): I have asked for the floor today to explain our delegation's position on the issue of a negotiated presidential statement in conjunction with the adoption of a mandate for an ad hoc committee on prevention of an arms race in outer space. Our delegation opposed such a statement. It has always been the position of our delegation that a committee's charter is embodied in the mandate adopted by the Conference. Clearly, that is what is contemplated by the Conference on Disarmament's rules of procedure. When it was suggested two years ago that the President make a statement following adoption of the outer space mandate, our delegation reluctantly agreed. We agreed because we consider that a President is entitled to state his personal views, and such views in no way affect the mandate or the work of any committee. We agreed reluctantly because we were concerned that others might make more of such a statement than was warranted.

Unfortunately, that is what happened in 1987. Several delegations treated the President's statement as a substantive addition to, and extension of, the mandate, and much committee time was wasted debating the relevance of the statement. The presidential statement was later misused in the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly. When the issue of a presidential statement again was raised at the beginning of the 1988 Conference on Disarmament session, our delegation at that time pointed out these abuses and, hoping that our protestations had registered, we again reluctantly agreed, stressing that the presidential statement should not be elevated to greater stature than it deserved, that is, that it should be treated as an expression of the views of one delegate only. The Committee was formed and the presidential statement was delivered, and the sound of the gavel was still echoing through the chamber when other delegations began citing the presidential statement as authority for emphasizing some parts of the Committee's work programme at the expense of other parts.

This past experience convinces us that a negotiated presidential statement in conjunction with the outer space mandate leads to unacceptable perversion of the Conference on Disarmament's rules of procedure. It leads to misunderstandings. It leads to the waste of time, so for these reasons our delegation was opposed to a negotiated presidential statement this year. Of course, we continue to support the President's prerogative to express his own views, just as other Conference on Disarmament members and groups of delegations have the right to express their positions at all times.

Our delegation has joined consensus on the establishment of an ad hoc committee on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, with a mandate which will permit wide-ranging inquiry and valuable, interesting work, and we look forward to beginning that work at an early date under the able chairmanship of a distinguished Ambassador and our colleague, Ambassador Bayart.

The PRESIDENT: I thank Ambassador Friedersdorf for his statement. May I ask if there is any other representative who wishes to take the floor? There seems to be none.

I thank you all for your understanding and co-operation in dispensing with the informal plenary before we proceeded to take decisions related to agenda item 5. I wish to say that this does not constitute a precedent for such decisions in the future. Before taking similar decisions in the future, I will consult with you through your co-ordinators to establish whether we can dispense with informal meetings.

I shall now invite the Conference to consider the timetable for meetings to be held by the Conference and its subsidiary bodies during the coming week. As usual, this timetable is merely indicative and we can proceed to adjust it, depending on the requirements of our work. You will notice that provision is made in the timetable for the opening meeting of the Ad hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, on Tuesday, 14 March at 3 p.m. in this conference room. If there is no objection, I shall consider that the Conference accepts the timetable.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: I have no other business for today, and I now intend to adjourn this plenary meeting. The next plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament will be held on Tuesday, 14 March at 10 a.m.

The meeting rose at 10.55 a.m.